

NOTES, INFORMATION & NEWS

Retention of *Nassarius corpulentus*
(C. B. Adams, 1852) in West
American Nassariid Nomenclature

by

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PETIT (1984) drew attention to the existence of the taxon *Cancellaria nassiformis* Lesson, 1842, as being an earlier name for *Nassarius corpulentus* (C. B. Adams, 1852) from the west coast of America. He advocated either the acceptance of *Cancellaria nassiformis* Lesson, which on examination of the type specimens proved to be conspecific with *Nassarius corpulentus* (C. B. Adams), or a rejection of Lesson's name by action of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature. The publication of Declaration 43 (INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE, 1970) has established binding rules for the treatment of unused names in zoology. Under these emended rules of Article 23(b), paragraph 2(b)(ii), a senior synonym is considered to be a *nomen oblitum* if during the immediately preceding 50 years (*i.e.*, 1934-1984) it has not once been applied to a particular taxon as its presumably valid name. Declaration 43 makes it clear that a *nomen oblitum* shall not replace a name that has been in current use for at least 50 years, and "current usage" has been defined as the usage of the name during the last 50 years by at least five different authors in 10 different publications.

Search through malacological literature has revealed a published usage between 1934-1984 of the name *Nassarius corpulentus* by nine different authors in 12 different publications as follows:

Nassarius corpulenta: BALES, 1938:45.

Nassarius corpulentus: DEMOND, 1951:16, 1952:314, pl. 1, fig. 6; KEEN, 1958:409, fig. 571; MCLEAN, 1970:129; KEEN, 1971:606, fig. 1295; CERNOHORSKY, 1975:168, fig. 93, 1982:17-209; KAICHER, 1982: card 3148; ABBOTT & DANCE, 1982:179, fig. bottom row center.

Nassa corpulenta: TURNER, 1956:44, pl. 5, fig. 3.

Nassa corpulentus: OLIVEIRA *et al.*, 1981:209.

I am certain that more time and effort would have probably unearthed even a wider usage of *Nassarius corpulentus*, but this would have been purely of statistical interest. Unless a usage of the taxon *Cancellaria nassiformis* Lesson is found between 1934-1960, in which instance the name has been applied to a valid taxon (mention in synonymy, listing in an Index, or list of names does not qualify), the epithet *Nassarius corpulentus* (C. B. Adams) must be retained in nassariid nomenclature.

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Observation of Predation on a Pleuronectid Fish by *Navanax inermis*

(Opisthobranchia: Cephalaspidea)

by

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Navanax inermis (Cooper, 1862), which ranges from Monterey Bay, California, to the Gulf of California, Mexico, is an active and voracious predator reported to